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9 General Bankruptcy Counsel to
10 Chapter 11 Debtor and Debtor in Possession,
11 KOMBU KITCHEN SF LLC, dba NIBLL

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15 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
16 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA – LOS ANGELES DIVISION**

17 In re:
18 KOMBU KITCHEN SF LLC, dba NIBLL,
19 Debtor and Debtor In Possession.

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21 Case No. 2:23-bk-17276-SK
22 Chapter 11
23 Subchapter V

24 **CASE STATUS REPORT**

25 Hearing:
26 Date: February 26, 2025
27 Time: 9:00 a.m.
28 Courtroom: 1575
29 255 East Temple St.
30 Los Angeles, CA 90012
31 Judge: Hon. Sandra R. Klein

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33 **TO THE HONORABLE SANDRA R. KLEIN, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY**
34 **JUDGE, MARK SHARF, SUBCHAPTER V TRUSTEE, PARTIES IN INTEREST AND THE**
35 **OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRUSTEE:**

36 At the November 13, 2024 status conference in this bankruptcy case (“Case”), the Court
37 continued the status conference to February 26, 2025 and asked that the Debtor file a brief status
38 report providing an update regarding the Debtor’s ongoing state court litigation with former
39 employees of the Debtor (generally referred to in this Case, collectively, as the “Wage Claimants”)
40 in two consolidated prepetition lawsuits pending in the Alameda County Superior Court (the “State

1 Court") and identified as *Aja de Coudreaux, et. al., v. Kombu Kitchens SF, LLC (dba "NYBLL")*, et
2 al., Case No. RG20058323 and *Maria De Jesus Vergara V. Kombu Kitchen SF, LLC (dba*
3 *"NYBLL")*, Case No. RG20057449 (collectively, the "State Court Actions").

4 As the Court will recall, the Wage Claimants filed proofs of claims (Claim Nos. 25 and 26)
5 in this Case in which they asserted unsecured claims against the Debtor that, in the aggregate, total
6 almost \$11.1 million. The Debtor joined in objections to those proofs of claims (on the grounds that
7 they were facially insufficient, vastly overstated, inconsistent with the economic damages they
8 asserted in the State Court Actions and filed without support). The Court, in turn, and with the
9 support and at the urging of the Wage Claimants, lifted the automatic stay to allow trial in the State
10 Court Actions to proceed.

11 Trial in the State Court Action commenced on February 10, 2025. The trial is ongoing and
12 testimony is not expected to conclude until sometime in March, 2025. The Court has indicated that
13 it will hear closing argument by briefs and that process may take up to 45 additional days. The
14 Debtor and the Wage Claimants have not been able to reach a settlement.

15 Per the Court's prior guidance, until either settlement has been reached or a judgment issued
16 in the State Court Actions, the Debtor cannot move forward with a plan of reorganization.

17 The Debtor recommends that the status conference be continued for two months, at which
18 time the Debtor expects to know the outcome of the State Court Actions.

19 Respectfully submitted,

20 Dated: February 19, 2025

WEINTRAUB ZOLKIN TALERICO & SELTH LLP

21
22 By /s/ David B. Zolkin
23 David Zolkin

24 General Bankruptcy Counsel for
25 Chapter 11 Debtor and Debtor in Possession,
26 KOMBU KITCHEN SF, LLC, dba NIBLL

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is:

11766 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 730, Los Angeles, CA 90025

A true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled (specify): **CASE STATUS REPORT**, will be served or was served (a) on the judge in chambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and (b) in the manner stated below:

1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF): Pursuant to controlling General Orders and LBR, the foregoing document will be served by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On (date) February 19, 2025, I checked the CM/ECF docket for this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that the following persons are on the Electronic Mail Notice List to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated below:

See attached NEF service list.

Service information continued on attached page

2. SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL:

On (date) February 19, 2025, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

See attached US Mail service list.

Service information continued on attached page

3. SERVED BY PERSONAL DELIVERY, OVERNIGHT MAIL, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OR EMAIL (state method for each person or entity served): Pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on (date) February 19, 2025, I served the following persons and/or entities by personal delivery, overnight mail service, or (for those who consented in writing to such service method), by facsimile transmission and/or email as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that personal delivery on, or overnight mail to, the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

Honorable Sandra R. Klein (via Priority Mail)
United States Bankruptcy Judge
255 E. Temple St., Suite 1582
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Service information continued on attached page

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

February 19, 2025
Date

Martha E. Araki
Printed Name

/s/ Martha E. Araki
Signature

In re Kombu Kitchen SF LLC

Case No. 2:23-bk-17276-SK

1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF):

- Attorneys for Debtor Kombu Kitchen SF LLC: **David B. Zolkin, Catherine Liu, Daniel J. Weintraub, James R. Selth:** dzolkin@wztslaw.com; cliu@wztslaw.com; dweintraub@wztslaw.com; jselth@yahoo.com; maraki@wztslaw.com; sfritz@wztslaw.com; admin@wztslaw.com
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